

*Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-04*  
*Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Safety and*  
*Security*  
*March 2, 2004*

Numerous requirements will come into effect on July 1, 2004 under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. Vessel owner/operators should be making arrangements for installation of equipment, training, and implementation of procedures necessary to have their vessels in full compliance by July 1, 2004. Vessels not in full compliance will be restricted from operating in the U.S. as well as a majority of foreign ports party to the ISPS Code. In concert with the ISPS code, amendments were made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS) to enhance navigation, maritime safety and maritime security.

Under SOLAS Chapter XI, Regulation 5, Continuous Synopsis Records (CSR), form CG-6038, are required for cargo vessels of 500 gross tons and over, and passenger vessels that carry more than 12 passengers, when either type vessel is engaged on an international voyage. The CSR provides an onboard record of the history of the vessel (e.g.: flag, ownership, associated organizations...).

For U. S. vessels, the Coast Guard recently issued a Notice of Availability for the Continuous Synopsis Record application and amendment forms. Foreign flag vessels shall apply for Continuous Synopsis Records via the procedures established by their flag administrations. The notice is provided below and solicits comments on the procedures that have been established.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-4210.pdf>

The CSR's for U. S. vessels will be administered by the National Vessel Documentation Center. The Coast Guard will be able to issue CSR's commencing March 1, 2004. A copy of the application, form CG-6039, can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/pdf/CG6039.pdf>. Upon completion of the application, it can be sent via e-mail to [csrdesk@nvdc.uscg.mil](mailto:csrdesk@nvdc.uscg.mil), or mailed to:

CSR Desk  
P. O. Box 1750  
Falling Waters, WV 25419-1750

Upon review and validation of the application, a Continuous Synopsis Record will be mailed with a blank "Amendments and Index to CSR", form CG-6038A, for placement on the vessel. Valid CSR's will not be sent by e-mail.

The vessel owner or operator is responsible for keeping the CSR current. The vessel master is considered a valid representative for the owner or operator for the purposes of the updating the CSR. The CSR must be amended for any changes related to entries referred to in SOLAS Chapter XI, Regulation 5, Paragraph 3.4 to 3.12. The completed form CG-6038A shall be attached to the Continuous Synopsis Record; a *copy* of form CG-6038A shall be sent without delay to the CSR Desk via the means for submittal of form CG-6039 noted above. A copy of form CG-6038A is available via the attached link: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/pdf/CG6038A.pdf>.

Upon receipt and review of the amendment, the Coast Guard will issue an updated Continuous Synopsis Record, accompanied by a blank CG-6038A for future amendments. **Do not destroy old CSR's upon receipt of the updated CSR's.** All old CSR's are required to be maintained on the vessel.

Other upcoming requirements under SOLAS include:

*SOLAS, Chapter XI, Regulation 3* – Ship Identification Number – All vessels constructed before 01 July 2004 to which the regulations apply must have the ship's identification number permanently marked on the vessel not later than the first scheduled dry-docking of the ship after 01 July 2004.

*SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 19, Paragraph 2.4.4* - "Ships, other than passenger ships and tankers, of 300 gross tonnage and upwards, but less than 50,000 gross tonnage, shall be fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) not later than the first safety equipment survey after 01 July 2004, or by 31 December 2004, whichever occurs earlier.

RICHARD M. KASER  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port